

# **The role of international non-governmental organisations in protection of human rights**

## **Summary**

The aim of this master thesis is to provide a systematic insight into the legal status and the role of international non-governmental organisations (INGOs) in protection and promotion of human rights in international law. By means of that, the thesis seeks to answer the question whether the current legal status of INGOs is favourable both for the INGOs themselves and their counterparts at the international level, mainly the states and international governmental organisations. Divided into three parts, the thesis is focused first on the legal definition of INGOs and their legal status in international relations, together with a depiction of their main functions. The illustration of the legal status of INGOs is oriented mainly on the legal regulation within the United Nations and the Council of Europe, two international bodies with the most developed cooperation strategy with INGOs. The theoretic part serves to demonstrate the contrast between a weak formal position and rather informal role of INGOs in international law, which is yet getting more and more important, mainly in the area of protection and promotion of internationally recognised human rights. The second part is a case study of the tendencies mentioned above. It describes the position, development and activities of one of the major INGOs in the field of human rights, Amnesty International. The last part puts these in context by observing the development and functioning of formal mechanisms of human rights protection and rather informal work of human rights INGOs. However, the goal of this part is not to compare them, it aims above all to put them in conjunction and highlight how they interfere with and influence each other. Acknowledging importance of both mechanisms of human rights protection, the conclusion of this thesis states that it would be favourable for both sides that the role and position of INGOs is legally determined. Finally, the thesis offers several possibilities of how the process of legal determination could be achieved. The master thesis is written in Czech language.